

The species starred were reported in the 'Bird-Lore' Christmas Census. Vol. XXI, No. 1, 1919.—ROY LATHAM, *Orient, N. Y.*

Rare and Uncommon Birds at Branchport, Yates Co., N. Y.—

Macrorhampus griseus. DOWITCHER.—While I was concealed in a blind at the marsh at Branchport, August 6, 1911, a Dowitcher came on the mud and I had it under observation with 8 power binoculars for nearly two hours. August 13 I saw another Dowitcher at this same place. This seems to be the only Dowitcher record for Yates County.

Sterna caspia. CASPIAN TERN.—My first record for Caspian Tern was May 2, 1912, when five of these beautiful birds were around Lake Keuka at Branchport all day long. Two more were seen May 4, four May 6, and two May 9. My next record was two birds seen May 11, 1915, and ten birds May 17 to 19, 1915. In 1916 none were seen. In 1917 two were seen April 25 (my earliest record) and two more July 15 (my only summer record). In 1918 three birds were seen May 6, and this year (1919) four were seen May 2 and two May 4.

Spinus pinus. PINE SISKIN.—Two Pine Siskins were under the balsams in my yard the morning of May 10, 1912. Two more were in the road in front of my house May 12. May 20, 1917, I saw a flock of about twenty-five Siskins in the bushes and on the ground along the "Big Gully" north of Branchport.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELER.—Two Shoveler ducks were shot on the lake at Branchport, November 12, 1912, and brought to me for identification.

Sterna hirundo. COMMON TERN.—May 9, 1913, ten Common Terns appeared on the lake at Branchport where they were seen in company with Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls until May 16, when they disappeared. May 11, 1915, there were several Common Terns with a small flock of Bonaparte's Gulls and they were again seen on May 25. May 3, 1917, two were seen with a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls. May 20, more than twenty were seen and May 27 there were more than forty Terns on the lake. April 28, 1918, and again May 12, eight were seen with Bonaparte's Gulls. May 2, 4, and 11, 1919, from two to twelve Terns were seen. Prior to 1913 I had never seen a Common Tern on Lake Keuka, but now they seem to be of regular occurrence.

Ammodramus nelsoni subvirgatus. ACADIAN SPARROW.—June 3, 1913, I saw an Acadian Sparrow in the thick marsh grass at Branchport. I had a good look at it at a distance of only three feet, but after it disappeared into the grass I was unable to flush it again. October 5, 1919, I saw another Acadian Sparrow in this same place, and October 14 another one lit in the cat-tails only ten feet away.

Nettion carolinense. GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—November 21, 1913, a trapper told me that he had caught a small duck in one of his traps and that he had left it in a barrel beside his boat-house. I got the duck and

found it to be a female Green-winged Teal. It had been caught by the bill in a steel trap that was set for muskrats. This same man brought me a Green-winged Teal that he had shot October 8, 1914. The Green-winged Teal is rather rare in this locality.

Pinicola enuncleator leucura. PINE GROSBEAK.—December 9, 1913, I saw a single female Pine Grosbeak in a locust tree in the streets of Branchport.

Hesperiphona v. vespertina. EVENING GROSBEAK.—I saw eight Evening Grosbeaks in a pear tree in the streets of Branchport the morning of March 28, 1916. They soon took flight and could not be again located.

Progne s. subis. PURPLE MARTIN.—A single Purple Martin stopped for a little while on the telephone wire in the street at Branchport, April 23, 1916.

Asio flammens. SHORT-EARED OWL.—November 2, 1916, a dead Short-eared Owl was picked up in the swamp at Branchport. Evidently it had been shot and left where it fell.

Aluco pratincola. BARN OWL.—May 27, 1917, a Barn Owl was brought to me by a young man who had shot it. He said that it was after his chickens. This is the first record of the Barn Owl for Branchport.—VERDI BURTON, *Branchport, N. Y.*

Unusual Winter Bird Records for Iowa City, Iowa.—Although the early winter season has been unusually severe in this locality and cold weather has continued almost without intermission since late November, 1919, a number of species of birds which ordinarily winter farther south have remained with us. The minimum temperature to date has been—25° Fahr. and the ground has been practically covered with snow since early December. Among eighteen species of birds seen on December 26, 1919, between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 2:30 P. M., the three following seem worthy of special mention.

Falco sparverius sparverius. SPARROW HAWK.—One example of this species was seen in a small wooded plot about one-half mile west of town. The bird was studied with the glasses at a distance of twenty yards. It was being tormented by a pair of blue jays which appeared to have no hesitancy in attacking the hawk, thus causing it to change its perch frequently in the tops of the trees. This is my first and only winter record for this bird.

Anderson (Birds of Iowa, Proc. Davenport Acad. Sci., XI, 1907, 257) says concerning the status of this hawk in Iowa: "A common migrant in all parts of the state and somewhat less common as a summer resident. * * * A male specimen was shot at Iowa City, November 28, 1905." Bailey (The Raptorial Birds of Iowa, Iowa Geol. Surv. Bull., No. 6, 1918, 170) adds: "Although rarely found with us during the winter, Mr. G. H. Berry, of Cedar Rapids, brought the writer one that was killed in the month of January while pursuing English Sparrows."